

**Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned**  
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the attached one page abstract at the end of the application.

(Abstract Attached)

Please renumber the pages of the application 1-9 to delete the occurrence of incorrect numbering of pages 1, 1-8.

Please replace the heading beginning at line 2 of page 1 with the following rewritten heading:

**Description**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**1. Technical Field**

Please insert the following heading at line 6 of page 1:

**2. Related Art**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Plain bearing elements are known from DE 33 28 509 C1 ([US4693617](#)) which comprise fine channels in the bearing backing as drainage channels for liquid lubricant, which channels occupy a maximum of 15% of the contact surface. The depth is indicated as being 0.03 to 0.2 mm. this measure is intended to prevent carbon build-up between the rear face of the bearing and the receiving bore, without the machine parts accommodating the bearing and the elements holding the bearing bore together having to be of reinforced and thus of heavier construction. The lubricant penetrating between the seating faces may escape in the course of the relative movement towards the free ends of said seating faces. All drainage channels have accordingly to open at the axial end edges of the plain bearing element. These drainage channels are thus not suitable for purposeful oil guidance. No statement is made about the manner in which the drainage channels are produced.

Please insert the following heading at line 1 of page 2 as follows:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES**

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 2 as follows:

The groove preferably extends over a circumferential angle of  $\varphi \leq 120^\circ$ , in particular over a circumferential angle of  $\varphi \leq 90^\circ$ , wherein this angle is calculated from the parting face.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 24 on page 2 as follows:

The depth  $T_{\max}$  is preferably  $\varphi \leq 0.8 D$ , wherein  $D$  denotes the thickness of the backing material. The depth and the width of the groove depend on the requirements relating to the quantity of oil to be conveyed, wherein, on the other hand, care must be taken to ensure the at the bearing material is deformed only slightly during stamping in of the groove. This is described in more detail in relation to the method.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 8 on page 4 as follows:

However, it has emerged that, depending on the size of the groove, stamping may cause deformation of the bearing material, which cannot be completely eliminated with subsequent conventional internal machining. It has been demonstrated that elimination of this deformation is only completely successful if internal machining is accompanied by the removal of a correspondingly large amount of material. The bearing material has namely to be applied with an elevated amount of surplus, such that a considerable amount of material may be removed over the entire inner surface of the bearing shell, in order completely to eliminate the deformations in the bearing material, such that the sliding surface attains its optimum contour. An elevated amount of surplus is understood to be a surplus  $\varphi \leq 0.2$  mm, i.e. a material thickness which is  $\varphi \leq 0.2$  mm greater than the final dimension.

Please insert the following heading at line 1 of page 5 as follows:

**THE DRAWINGS**

Please insert the following heading at line 8 of page 5 as follows:

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 26 of page 5 as follows:

Figure 3 is a perspective representation of a bearing 9 ~~consisting of~~ having two bearing shells 1. The two bearing shells 1 are arranged in such a way that the two grooves 6 of the upper and lower bearing shells 1 merge with one another and thus form a common groove.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 29 of page 5 as follows:

Figure 4a is a plan view of a material strip 10, which ~~consists of~~ has a backing material 2 coated with plain bearing material 3 and which is moved in the feed direction 11. The material strip 10 here is straight, with its two edges 16, 17 oriented parallel to one another.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 32 of page 5 and ends on line 1 of page 6 as follows:

Such a material strip 10, which comprises the composite ~~consisting of~~ backing material 2 and plain bearing material 3, is fed to a stamping station 12, as indicated schematically in Figure 4b.

Please delete page 7 in its entirety.